



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842**

**Monthly Meeting –May 30, 2013
Selectmen's Meeting Room
7 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Rick Griffin, Hampton Representative
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District

Absent: Walter Kivlan - Hampton Beach Village District
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast
Parks/Recreation)

Other: Laurie Olivier- Secretary
James Steffen – Town Planner

Introduction of Commissioners

Mr. Nyhan introduced the Board members and discussed noted those absent.

Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

Ms. Linda Gebhart appeared. She obtained a Warrant Article regarding weapons and discussed Article 2, which was passed in 2011. She read the Article aloud. It is Warrant Article #3 in 2011. In the same year, Article 27 regarding weapons was

discussed by Ms. Gebhart and it also was read aloud. Since 2011, a store has opened and then another one opened. She visited seven stores. Some of the weaponry has been moved to the back of store, but there is not a wall. One has a half wall for separation. Some have collapsible screens only. She stated that the owners are not adhering to what was voted on by residents of Hampton. Mr. Nyhan asked if the Articles were advisory only and they were not – Article 3 was a change in zoning law. These two stores are not grandfathered in.

Mr. Nyhan asked about the weapons and Ms. Gebhart said there was a crossbow, machetes and throwing stars to name a few.

COMMENTS

Mr. Nyhan said he will discuss this with Zoning to look at Article 3.

Mr. C. Preston appeared. He asked about the Joint Operations Plan. He would like a copy of the most recent audit of the meter patrol at the Beach. The Town and Precinct should look at this and improve operations. He asked for DRED to help out with this. Mr. C. Preston believes a better situation can come out of this.

Mr. C. Preston asked about DRED, DOT and the Town getting together to discuss lengthening the season. Maybe off-street parking won't need to occur. He feels it should be considered. He discussed the plowing situation as well.

Ms. Kathy Silver appeared. She discussed the road in front of the Ocean Wok. A letter was sent to the State about the corner being dangerous. The State agreed and agrees it is a blind corner, but noted that that area is the Town's responsibility. She stated the median strip in front of the Ocean Wok is causing accidents. She would like to see parking prohibited alongside the median strip and the Ocean Wok. Mr. Griffin asked if she called the Police.

Mr. Nyhan stated there needs to be more discussion on this. He met with Deputy Sawyer today on this and Mr. Sawyer is happy to host a meeting at the Police Station for concerned residents. Mr. Nyhan will help facilitate the meeting. Deputy Sawyer will have members from the Police Department there to get ideas on how to improve the area. Mr. Nyhan will find out Mr. Sawyer's schedule in the next week or two. He will get back to Kathy.

Review & approval of March & April HBAC Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Rage to accept the March 28th Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. Preston.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Mr. Preston to accept the April 25th Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. Watson.

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 1 (Rage)

MOTION PASSED.

Appointments

1. Presentation – Explore the Ocean World – Ellen Goethal

Ms. Goethal appeared. She is a Marine Biologist. Her business is located at 367 Ocean Boulevard and it is set to open on June 29th. She stated that Blue Ocean is opening a touch tank. She does not feel that they are in competition. There are two opportunities for family-friendly events. She is really excited about this and hopes to work with the HBAC on programs she is putting together. She is hoping to open a ‘learning to fish’ program as well.

Mr. Nyhan stated the HBAC knows who the bidders are, but the final selection has not been determined. They don't know for a fact that it will be Blue Ocean, but whoever does get it, he asked that Ms. Goethal have her programs and activities compliment the other organization. Ms. Goethal concurred and asked that the new business will do the same by her. Ms. Goethal does not know Blue Ocean's plans. Her plans are what she told the State and she has a business plan put together. Her business is located at the Oceanside Mall, next to the Oceanside Inn. She is planning to charge as well.

Mr. Rage asked about an extended season, and Ms. Goethal said she will go through the weekends through September and she hopes to go longer. There will also be birthday parties as well. There would be enough room for a classroom.

Mr. Preston thinks it's a great idea. Ms. Goethal reiterated that her focus is different from Blue Ocean.

Chairman's Report

1. Capital Budget – Sea Wall Appropriation Update

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Senate approving the capital budget with the seawall intact. The senate put it back to \$2.5 Million. It goes to the House Conference now. As soon as he hears from the Senator, he will give more of an update. Phil Bryce will give a report later on in the meeting.

2. Budget Appropriation Request – Trash Barrels at State Park

Mr. Nyhan discussed trash at the beach being an issue. Having a cleaner beach was discussed. He is wondering if the HBAC could assist the State Parks for a small amount of money, in sprucing up the trash concept and connect it with art and decorations. He is proposing that we spend out of our budget \$2,000 to buy 20 to 25 92-gallon barrels that are owned by the Town. They are the same size as recycled barrels. The Town would donate them to the State Park, but the Committee would bring in the Beautification Committee. Names of organizations that gave money would be on the barrels as well. Two sides of the barrels would contain artwork and one side would have the HBAC logo along with companies that provided money via the gala. He discussed this with State Parks. They are in favor of the idea. The State doesn't have the vehicle to pick up the trash, but they can buy bags that size. They would throw bags into the trucks. The 92-gallon size is almost 3x the size of the present barrels. It compliments the recycle barrels. It would cut down on garbage.

Mr. Nyhan made a motion to appropriate \$2,000 to the art trash barrel project. We would replace the existing barrels. He noted that the Committee could revisit this next year.

Mr. Rage asked about lifting 92-pounds bags. These would located at the stairways. By having covers over the barrels, it would keep the birds away. Trash also would not blow around. This would be for trash only; not recycling.

SECOND by Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Watson asked about costs for the artwork. Artwork would be turned into decals so they would stick on the barrels. The Beautification Committee has money for this type of project as well. Mr. Rage doesn't want to skimp on the barrels. Mr. Nyhan would like a variety of different artwork. To encourage recycling would be noted on the barrels as well.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

3. Discussion – Town warrant article – 3/ 2014 – zoning related

Mr. Nyhan discussed the HBAC considering a warrant article for March of 2014. It would be zoning related and it would have to do with the height of buildings in the Hampton Beach area in the commercial district. This was attempted in 2009 and failed. He wants to revisit this and have it sponsored by the HBAC. He would like the Commission to seek the residents thoughts on this.

Mr. McMahon stated a Petitioned article needs 25 signatures and then the substance of the Article. He thinks the better way is to go through the Planning Board. The Commission could ask the Planning Board to sponsor it. Planning would go through the process of minor details on getting this to pass. He stated the time is appropriate. He asked that the Commission approach the Planning Board in September with its thoughts.

Mr. Griffin thinks it's a good idea. Mr. Rage thinks the last one failed because people didn't understand it. He feels it should be simple. The floor area ratio was discussed by Mr. McMahon. Ashworth Avenue to F Street was the prior proposal.

Mr. Nyhan will make sure it's on the agenda for September.

Treasurer's report (Housman)

Mr. Nyhan stated there is \$22,969.75 available in the account at DRED.

Mr. Nyhan stated that he is moving DRED updates before Transportation Grant updates.

Old Business

1. Discussion - DRED updates (Housman)

A. MOU update

B. Other Park operational updates

Mr. Phil Bryce appeared. He is the Director of Parks and Recreational Development. He noted that the North Hampton State Beach Bathhouse dedication is

next Friday. Ribbon cutting is occurring as well. He appreciates connecting into the wastewater treatment plant. The public is invited to the event.

Next Thursday through Sunday is the Olde Tyme State Fair. He is expecting a great event.

Mr. Bryce discussed the Joint Operations Plan. He believes it is moving forward nicely.

Signage along the beach was discussed noting meters to be paid. Prison labor was used for that also.

They purchased new equipment this year. The operation of the rake was discussed.

The seawall was discussed. The original budget was for \$2.5 Million. Being bonded by the State and sustaining payment on bonds was discussed.

Kitchen renovation is in full swing for catering functions for the State and for themselves. Mr. Nyhan asked about the website and who the vendors are for caterers. Mr. Bryce doesn't know. Mr. Bryce will ask how folks are promoted and he will get a list to Mr. Nyhan.

Mr. Bryce discussed the store. They are looking for another use for the store and had two outstanding presentations for the use. They are in the process of negotiating a contract with the new tenant and he hopes to get it finalized this next week.

The Seacoast Manager position is in the budget. One is to do DDM maintenance work and the other is the Seacoast Manager and they are ready to fill that position.

An intrusive alarm system at the seashell was discussed.

Hampton Beach was named amongst the top six beaches by the Weather Channel. He discussed how so many organizations make this happen.

Mr. Preston received a call regarding South Street, at the end of the street – there is a dune. He noted that the owner of the restaurant at the corner of N Street feels people cannot see his place of business because of the dune. He asked if it will be taken down. Mr. Bryce discussed getting the dune hauled out of there.

Mr. Griffin noted the State does a good job at cleaning up the beach. Mr. Bryce challenged the State's design staff on blocking stairwells.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the new position of Regional Supervisor. This is not a new idea. Mr. Bryce had the vision in the budget to put the position back in once it was taken out. Mr. Bryce had to make sure there were finances to fund the position.

2. Discussion – Transportation Grant – (Watson)

A. list of action items required over the summer

Mr. Watson discussed the \$300,000 grant the HBAC received a year ago. Mr. Nyhan has paperwork to sign the Agreement.

The project talked about three strategies. We have Hampton Beach Master Plan which is about 11 to 12 years old and it needs to be reviewed. Looking at the transportation components in the Hampton Beach Master Plan was discussed. Enhancing business along the beach and looking at existing infrastructure along the Beach was discussed as well as assessing traffic flow patterns. Safety and air quality was discussed also. William Rose, who works for Mr. Watson, will be the Project Manager. He feels that the project can go far. There is a lot of funding. We need to come up with \$75,000.

There is enough money to do the study. Parking signs and cross walk issues were addressed also. William is going to put together a budget for the project. Mr. Nyhan will try to get administrative support for the project. Tip and Stip funding would happen from Mr. Steffen. He asked the Commission to look at the Master Plan. By Labor Day, this project should be kicked off. The consultant could do the planning and engineering work. The Commission will meet for a kick off over the summer to: (1) develop and review the timeline on what John and William need to spend time on. The time frame and educating the Commission and compliance issues will be addressed. William has regional and state-wide experience in New Hampshire and Vermont.

4. Status: New Development – Green & Company – 339-345 Ocean Blvd.)

Mr. Nyhan was told that the Zoning Board denied the Selectmen's rehearing request. Selectmen have 30 days to respond; either back away or sue the Zoning Board. Next Monday night the discussion will be brought up on what the decision will be. There is a public comment section at the Selectmen meeting and he encouraged people to attend to speak in favor of the project. Mr. Green will be present and will answer questions. He noted no one has come forward to oppose the project.

5. Public parking lot signs – update

Mr. Nyhan discussed working with Dyana Martin for matching funds for signs that we could buy into along with money that the Town appropriated in the budget. He heard from Dyana that there was money there, it was taken out over the last month or so and right now there is no money for capital improvements like signs.

Mr. Nyhan asked about a grant doing a pilot demonstration project – one or two parking lots where we would have signage and maybe would fund it by Federal money rather than by Beach or Town money. Mr. Griffin asked if Mr. Nyhan should bring it up at public comment and Mr. Nyhan concurred. Having a nice look to the parking lot was discussed.

Mr. Preston said there could be consistent quality in signs. It will help direct parking to weaker lots. It's like branding. HBVD will need signs next year as well

6. Other old business

Mr. Nyhan discussed an email from Dave Walker regarding the RPC. A parking study update was discussed. He made updates and Mr. Nyhan will review it in the next week or so.

New Business

1. Meeting – NH DRED Commissioner – Jeff Rose – September, '13

Mr. Rose will be at our September meeting. **Our first meeting will be September 26th.**

2. Summer Session schedule/special meetings as required

Mr. Nyhan discussed no beach meetings for June, July and August. If a meeting is required, he will send out a notice. Mr. Nyhan passed out the meeting dates for next year. He asked Laurie to post it at the Town Hall and put it on the website.

Mr. McMahon discussed people being washed off the jetty. The Fire Department had to fish them out of the water. There has been some erosion on the North side of the jetty. Erosion of homes was discussed as well. He asked if there should be a plan for the jetty. Mr. Griffin said they are not planning on doing a lot of work on the Seabrook side. He's not sure about the North side. He thinks it's up to the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Welch has information on that. Mr. Nyhan will get back to Mr. McMahon on this.

Adjourn

MOTION by Mr. McMahon to adjourn.

SECOND by Mr. Griffin.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary